

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

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It looks odd to see Dewey and Aguinaldo in the same party.

The Bulletin ought not to abuse intelligence and wealth. What does it know about either?

By the way, how much would Dr. McGrew's fine place have brought if the National Democracy had got its way against annexation?

The By Authority columns contain a notice of the opening of Chinatown for building purposes the 20th of this month and earlier in regard to some particular sites. In some respects the move is a matter of congratulation but we think the city will regret that it did not keep the tract closed until the fire limits could be extended over it.

It will be noticed that the Government, in disposing of the Royal furniture, gives up all that is the private property of the dynastic family. This will not, however, save it from the charge, after the circumstances are forgotten, of having cheated the Queen out of her belongings. Such a charge was lately made in Congress touching the alleged "loot of the Palace in 1893," although then as now the rights of private property were respected.

Our esteemed friend Alkali Abe is going to have the assistance of a fellow Arizonan in running his double-barreled, self-cocking Republican daily here. General Ed. Gill, sometimes called "General" Gill in the wilds of the Southwest, is a man after Abe's own heart. They do say that when Gill drew his gun and went after Nat Murphy, the coyotes stopped howling and the Arizona Kicker missed one issue. Gill used to work for Tom Fitch in San Diego and if Tom comes here too as he threatens, the rest of the population may as well go armed or else keep its hands from its hip pockets. Some of the happiest illustrations of Arizona journalism have followed an inadvertent fumbling about the hip pocket when there was nothing there but a handkerchief.

THE DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

The Democratic organization meeting last night was interesting both in its utterances and its personnel. It was also significant in that the attendance of natives was less than it had been at the drilled rally of the Republicans. Plainly, so far as the national parties are concerned, the natives are inclined to hold aloof. Mr. Testa was present but would not speak; Mr. Bush avowed himself a Democrat, a Mugwump and a fence politician in the same breath and made a peroration of the statement that there were equally good men in both parties; while Mr. Kaula, the concluding native speaker, said outright that he was neither Republican nor Democrat. Obviously the Democratic appeal to the natives has fallen short.

Another striking fact was that so few people who have lived in Honolulu for any length of time took part in the proceedings. When the venerable Dr. McGrew gazed from the platform he could not have recognized one man in twenty. Our Democracy is a party of strangers, who may or may not intend to stay here long. We do not urge that it is morally the worse for that—far be it from us to withhold a friendly hand to the malihini—but surely Honolulu has a right to expect more of good from a party which includes eight out of ten of its experienced citizens than from one which is chiefly made up of transient guests or of brand-new denizens.

As to the speeches we give every reader a chance to interpret them for himself, the Advertiser's report being stenographic. Mr. McClanahan's speech and the rest are rendered up this morning in the cold type of an accurate and uncensored narrative. Some points are made that will bear discussion in these columns and of these more anon. At the late hour of writing there is neither time nor space for anything like an argumentative review.

THE RAT QUESTION.

What about the lessons of the bubonic plague? Are we going to forget them just as they have been learned in the school of sad experience? Knowing that Oriental or Australian steamers may bring plague-smitten rats to this port at any time—for the pestilence has reappeared in Hongkong and Osaka, and is still raging in Sydney—are we going to let our own rats increase so that, if the plague comes ashore, there will be thousands of fleet little animals to carry the contagion? Aren't we going to get rid of our rats if we can?

The same problem is uppermost in Australia as witness these extracts from The Queenslander:

The president of the Board of Health made the following statement to a Daily Telegraph reporter:

"It is painful to have to say so, but it is quite clear that this city is now in the hands of the epidemic, and the rat is the cause."

"If the plague is to be stamped out the rats must first be exterminated. I cannot too strongly impress this upon the public. We have already said that we have actually identified plague in certain rats

found at Chippendale, two miles from the Darling Harbor slope. The infected area extends just as far as the rats do, and, although the cleansing of neighborhoods is a very good thing so far as it goes, it is not of itself sufficient to arrest the spread of the plague. The imperative duty is to kill the rat."

"The Premier has perceived this, and is very anxious that something more should be done. It is, however, very difficult to say what that something should be. We can distribute, and are ready to distribute, rat poison to municipalities, but the difficulty is to get the people to use it when it is supplied to them. According to the testimony of firms part of whose business it is to supply rat poison, the demand is no greater now than in ordinary times, and the ordinary demand is so small as to be not worth speaking about. The majority of the people, instead of exerting themselves as individuals, just lie back and complacently wait for State action to be taken."

"Suppose the rats were paid for at 2s. a head. A thousand would cost less than £10, and for £1,000 you could have something like 100,000 rats. I do not hesitate for a moment to say that 100,000 dead rats collected in Sydney just at this time would be positively cheap at half a crown apiece!"

The Advertiser has, time and again, voiced the same conclusions about the rat problem in Hawaii. Dependence on rat poison amounts to little, and a public rat catcher could not keep up with the natural increase of the rodent family in one ward. The only visible way to get rid of the rats is to make it an object by means of a high bounty, for every man's servants, for children and for people of moderate wages to hunt them down. Fifty cents per head for rats would undoubtedly make the pests scarce.

Dr. Wood feels the force of this argument and the only objection he has to it is that tree rats which might be shot, would earn most of the money while house and wharf rats went free. But if tree rats spread the plague why not kill them? If not why pay bounty for them at all? We understand they are easy to distinguish, by size and color, from the rat of the attic and the dock. The way to proceed is to pay a large bounty for any kind of rat if all kinds are susceptible to the plague; if all kinds are not susceptible, then to pay a big bounty for the kinds that are. Nothing except successful inoculation would be better than this.

POLITICAL BEGINNERS.

Young men, start right in politics! Join a party of progress and patriotism; don't join a sorehead party or a party of negation or one that has to apologise for its past. Don't become Democrats. Be Republicans!

The Democratic party was great in the time of Jefferson, and under Jackson it did good service to the country. But when the moral sense of the people revolted at slavery the Democratic organization began to suffer from dry rot and finally it became both useless and offensive. Primarily it was responsible for the Civil War and it made up the personnel of the Confederacy. Not every Democrat was a rebel but every rebel was a Democrat; not one was a Republican. Many Democrats, including General Grant, went into the Union army, but eight out of ten returned to civil life as Republicans. Those who didn't have been apologising for their party's war record ever since.

Every great measure of national progress during the past forty years has been Republican—freedom for the blacks; the homestead law; the solution of the Indian question; the present method of meeting the national debt; cheap postage; modern naval construction; reciprocity; transcontinental railway; the banking system; specie payments—all are of Republican inception. Most of these measures the Democracy has opposed; the few they have fallen in with, as modern naval construction, they seek to take the entire credit for, naming Whitney as the founder of our war-marine when, as a matter of fact, the keels of the first four new warships were laid by Secretary Chandler during the administration of President Arthur. Democracy, to commend itself, tries to steal Republican thunder.

What did eight years of Democracy add to the advantages of the people? Four years, comprising Cleveland's first term, were nearly barren in reforms of any kind; the next four years, covering his second term, witnessed the hard times that were brought to pass by the Gorman-Wilson tariff and a coincident increase, by something like a quarter of a billion of dollars, of the public debt. Manufacturing energy, industrial and commercial incomes and national credit were alike impaired. So bad was the condition of the country and so obvious the cause, that the electors chose the leading Republican protectionist for President by a startling majority of electoral votes.

What has the Democracy since achieved? Kicks, nothing but kicks! Nor is it likely to achieve anything better if the Kansas City platform is to be what Chairman Jones' recent bulletin foreshadows. Here is a gist of the coming platform:

Denouncing "imperialism" and expansion.

Denouncing the war in the Philippines.

Denouncing the government established in Porto Rico and Hawaii.

Denouncing the revenue measures in both these islands.

Denouncing the gold standard and the currency bill.

Denouncing the Nicaragua canal treaty with England.

Denouncing protection to American industries.

Denouncing the trusts and accusing the Republican party of fostering them.

Denouncing McKinley because he hasn't done something more in the interests of the Boers.

Denouncing the Republicans for disobeying the Constitution.

And finally an omnibus plank denouncing the Republican party for everything it has done since the inauguration of McKinley.

Young men, don't join the political kickers and obstructionists. Don't be like the Indian that tried to lasso the locomotive. Get in with the people who push ahead, adding area to the American map and glory to the American flag; the people who are bound to shape the destinies of the nation. In a word don't handicap yourself by joining the Democrats but get into the Republican forward movement and leave the kickers behind.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Soldiers' Identity Tickets.

The wounded Thomas Atkins comes off the field with his identity ticket in his coat, and the wounded Boer arrives with a much more elaborate document in his pocket. As an evidence of the complete and carefully thought out arrangements for the war which the Transvaal and the Free State have made, these identity tickets of theirs are most remarkable. Each is printed on a strong card, backed with green colored canvas, which holds together like the syllabus of a debating society. In addition to full particulars of the identity and address of the owner, it bears these notices in English and in Dutch:

"In case of bearer of this being killed or wounded, you are requested to send this card, through the nearest commanding officer or responsible official, to the identity department above mentioned. The identity department of the Red Cross Society will forward to English authorities information about the wounded English soldiers who might be made prisoners."

Pledged by Proxy.

An old story which may or may not be true is that told of the Marquis of Londonderry, Great Britain's new postmaster general. Before he succeeded to his father's peerage he stood for Parliament in the Irish county Down, and was elected as a home ruler. When he subsequently voted against home rule, and was charged with bad faith, he said that he had never pledged himself to support that cause. It subsequently turned out that a practical joker who resembled the candidate had visited county Down previous to the Parliamentary election and promised the Irish Nationalists that he would support them on all questions affecting the welfare of Ireland. The hoax was discovered too late to deceive the home rulers, who acknowledged that they had been sold.

Present Harvard Sixty Years Hence.

The Daily Crimson, of Harvard, contains another call from Mr. Lane, the sociologist, who is collecting autobiographies to be opened sixty years hence. He says: "The journals of Harvard life written during the month of March by professors and students are now coming in daily to the college library, to be preserved there, opened for the benefit of our successors sixty years hence. I should be glad to supplement the account thus given by as good a collection as we can bring together of photographs illustrating the present appearance of the college yard and the college buildings, college rooms, college customs and college men, as well as any other pictures of the current life and aspect of Cambridge and Boston."

The Indian Famine.

The Indian famine is a famine of water, grain and cattle, and it is costing the rest of the world and the Indian government about \$85,000 a day to give even partial relief to the 3,500,000 starving people. England's eyes are now on South Africa, and the charitable people of the world in general must take care of India. The famine of 1896-97 cost for relief work alone \$27,000,000, the Indian government having spent \$50,000 a day. That of 1877 cost \$17,250,000. In the five preceding years starving millions were fed at an expenditure of \$880,000,000. In 1865-66 more than 1,000,000 natives perished; in 1868-69 over 1,500,000, and in 1837-38 over 8,000,000.

Where Church's Pictures Are.

Of the late Frederick E. Church's great paintings, the most celebrated, "The Heart of the Andes," is owned by David Downs, the wealthy connoisseur; his first "Niagara," painted in 1857, is in the Corcoran gallery in Washington; his second "Niagara" is in the National gallery at Edinburgh, to which it was given by a Scottish citizen of the United States. "Isberg" and "The Andes of Ecuador" are owned by Sir Edward Watkins of London, and "Cotopaxi" is in the Lenox library, Manhattan.

The Oldest Pensioner.

John MacGowan, of Clay county, Fla., claims to be the oldest pensioner in the country. According to papers now on file in Washington, he is 121 years old. He was born in Ireland on March 15, 1779, and came to this country in 1804. He enlisted in the Seventeenth Connecticut regiment in 1863, when he was 84 years old. The pension officials are inclined to believe his statement.

The Sirdar's Former Brother.

Lord Kitchener has a younger brother living in New Zealand, who, instead of following his three brothers into the army, chose a lonely pastoral life. Arthur Buck Kitchener is a bachelor, 48 years of age, and the owner of a fine estate at Waiwera Grange, near Dunback, on the Shag river.

Japanese Black Teeth.

The custom of women in Japan at marriage giving their teeth an everlasting coating of blacking is practiced now by only a small percentage, but there are still seen in the cities hundreds of women hideous with black ivory, and dentists' showcases contain sets of black teeth.

Municipal Nursery.

It is said that the little city of Orea, in Sweden, owns and operates a nursery that brings in an annual income of \$150,000, a sum that pays all the expenses of the municipality, including free schools for the children and a free telephone system for the people.

Immense Street Car Traffic.

In New York City the Metropolitan Street Railway Company has 284 miles of track, and last year carried on them 255,845,000 passengers, or about half the number carried on all the steam railroads of the United States.

"The Mill Cannot Grind with Water That's Past."

A fagged out, tearful little woman said this in telling her cares and weaknesses. Her friend encouraged by telling of a relative who was cured of just such troubles by Hood's Sarsaparilla. The little woman now has tears of joy, for she took Hood's, which put her blood in prime order, and she lives on the strength of the present instead of worrying about that of the past.

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